THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF CANADA
21 DUNDAS SQUARE TORONTO, ONTARIO

The NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. 19, NO. 2 MARCH, 1944

Centennial Planning

There is widespread and general anticipation, borne out by evidence from every part of the Dominion, that this year of 1944 will witness a great moving forward of every phase of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Marking as it does the Centennial of our movement, the year 1944 already gives indication of being an inspiring milestone in our history.

The Centennial Planning Committee headed by Gerald W. Birks, of Montreal, has heard of stirring and thrilling plans which are being made by local Associations throughout the land.

The creation of new Y.M.C.A.s in places not now served by the Y is being discussed in many areas; in other areas where the work has no central location, plans are discussed for a suitable building; the wiping off of mortgages is becoming a commonplace already; extension into new fields, and a strengthening of present work is evident on all sides.

While the national Centennial Planning Commitee is busy completing plans for the national observance in Montreal, June 3, 4, 5, and 6, local Centennial Committees are setting up their own sub-committees and many of them are already busy at work. In some communities sub-committees such as these are being found to be useful: Christian emphasis, membership, special events, centennial dinner, finance, public relations, and program evaluation.

Throughout the Dominion, around the first week of June, Y.M.C.A. Centennial dinners will be held in at least half a hundred places.

In Montreal a national Centennial Religious service will be held on Sunday, June 4, at Christ Church Cathedral, when John R. Mott will deliver the sermon. In Montreal, too, will centre the annual meeting of the National Council, June 3, 4, 5, and 6, and a large gathering is expected.

Over the national network of the C.B.C. and on many local stations across Canada, the Centennial of the Y.M.C.A. will be suitably observed.

Magazines and newspapers will also do their part in making known to the general public some of the accomplishments of the Y.M.C.A. in the world during the past hundred years and some of our hopes for the years to come.

In every community where the Y.M.C.A. is carrying on its work there will be special observances of the occasion. It will take different form in different places. Swim meets, track meets, pageants, membership campaigns, community projects and services of dedication are only some of the events planned.

In all Y.M.C.A. war service centres across Canada special Centennial programs will be organized.

In all these observances what comes of them will depend very largely upon what is put into them. Every effort is being made to plan well and carefully. Local Associations are being urged to extend their Centennial observances throughout the year 1944, so that all phases of program will receive special attention.

It is a year of great hope. It is a challenging year. This Centennial year may see great new things born in our movement.

FOUNDER

George Williams as a young man.

Canadian Y.M.C.A. War Services

Cumulative Participation Figures September, 1939 - December 31, 1943

Canada and Newfoundland	120,075,418
Overseas	47,003,005
Beaver Club	8,777,717
	175,856,140

IN 1943 ALONE

Free Writing Paper (sheets)	63,000,000
Free Envelopes	40,000,000
Letters Mailed for Service Men	4,250,000

Are you attending the National Council Annual Meeting and Centennial Observance, Montreal, June 3, 4, 5, 6, 1944?

Enlarged Executive Meeting

On January 29 and 30, at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, some 75 Y.M.C.A. laymen and secretaries attended an enlarged Executive meeting of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A.s of Canada. Harold R. Frost, of Toronto, chairman of the Executive Committee, presided.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the report of Guy Tombs, chairman of the program and arrangements sub-committee of the National Centennial Planning Committee, who reported extensive plans for the observance of the Centennial of the Y.M.C.A. in Canadian centres. Mr. Tombs also reported on the arrangements being made in Montreal for the holding of the Annual Meeting of the National Council.

Discussion of the Canadian Youth Commission and the proposed study of the Y.M.C.A., planned in connection with the Commission's work, was also under review. Dr. K. E. Norris, of the Sir George Williams College, is chairman of the Y.M.C.A. Study Committee and the meeting approved the appointment of Murray Ross as director of the Y.M.C.A. study.

During the luncheon-gathering J. W. Beaton, senior secretary for Y.M.C.A. War Services, told of the increasing extent of Y.M.C.A. war services, and Frank Guy Armitage presented his "Dickens' Queer Folk" as a demonstration of the type of entertainment the Y.M.C.A. is presenting to men in uniform.

Other highlights of the meeting included:

Discussion of the advisability of setting up a Centennial fund.

Approval of the Treasurer's report for 1943, and adoption of the budget for 1944.

Decision to hold over the proposal for a western territorial office until further study had been made in consultation with the Western Associations.

More Y.M.C.A. Supervisors Reach Italy

Word has been received of the safe arrival in Italy of twelve additional war services supervisors to work with the troops.

They are **Douglas E. Scott,** of Saskatoon, Sask., who worked for some time with the International Nickel Company at Sudbury, and went overseas last year; **Ernest Winn McKenzie,** of Moose Jaw and Regina, Sask., who was Y.M.C.A. community secretary at Winnipeg before he joined the War Services in 1941;

Andrew Jackson Elliott, born in Windsor, Ont., and Manager of the Toronto Men's Hostel before his appointment to War Services three years ago; **Thomas Gilbert Ferguson,** of Toronto, who joined War Services in 1940 and worked for a time in Brantford.

John Parsons Kidd, a native of Vancouver, who served as Boys' Work Secretary at Montreal and was acting general secretary at Brantford until his appointment to War Services two years ago; **Clayton Don Burton,** of Edmonton, Alta., physical director at Edmonton for four years, fellowship secretary in Montreal, later on the staff at London, Ont., and not a War Services staff member until 1940;

Norman J. Long, of Toronto, a staff member at West End, Toronto, until he was appointed to War Services staff almost three years ago and then served at Kitchener and Camp Borden training camps; **Eric George Walling,** born in Alberta, and a Baptist minister at Red Deer until he joined War Services in 1940, serving as supervisor at Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Weyburn, Sask.;

Donald Archibald Sharpe, of Campbellton, N.B., who joined War Services more than three years ago and was on the War Services staff at Moncton and Charlottetown; **A. Earle Diehl,** Toronto, president of the Y's Men's Club of Toronto when he went overseas as supervisor in November, 1940;

Lorne R. Coates, also of Toronto and on the staff at Camp Borden before going overseas in August, 1942; and **James K. Bell,** of Fort Erie, Ont., who was a school teacher in that town before joining War Services in the Fall of 1940.

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THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
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ASSOCIATIONS OF CANADA
21 DUNDAS SQ. - TORONTO
L. E. SHAW, *President*
HAROLD R. FROST, K.C.,
Chairman, Executive Committee
R. S. HOSKING, *General Secretary*

Canadian War Services Appointments

Some very important changes in Canadian War Services Personnel have just been announced:

A. W. (Wally) Kemball goes to London, England, to manage the Beaver Club, one of London's most popular leave services. Mr. Kemball has been for the past two years the Y.M.C.A. Area War Services Secretary for Eastern Ontario and Quebec. In London, he will relieve **W. H. Spearman** who has been the Beaver Club Manager for the past two years, and Mr. Spearman will return to Canada.

At National Headquarters, **T. A. Dimock** assumes the newly created position of Director of Program for Canadian Y.M.C.A. War Services.

Mr. Dimock entered Y.M.C.A. War Services as the Secretary for the area from Port Arthur west to the Rockies, and saw this region so develop that it became necessary to divide the territory, he retaining the western end. Later, he came to Toronto to supervise the Central and Western Ontario region.

Mr. Dimock is succeeded in the Ontario area by **Sid McLennan,** formerly of Kitchener, who has been stationed at the St. Thomas R.C.A.F. station.

Mr. Kemball is succeeded in Eastern Ontario and Quebec by **J. W. Norman,** who for the past four months has been the Area Secretary for New Brunswick, Labrador and the Gaspe. Mr. Norman in turn will be succeeded by **Earle W. Hendershot,** who will make his headquarters at Moncton. Mr. Hendershot has been with the R.C.A.F. at Clinton, Ontario.

In Western Canada, the prairie region has again been combined into one territory with **Mr. George Young** assuming direction from Port Arthur to the rockies with headquarters at Regina, including not only his original territory west of Regina to the rockies, but also to the territory handled by Bob Gibson, who has gone with World Service to India.

These major changes in the Senior Supervision of Canadian Y.M.C.A. War Services will be of interest to many readers of the Bulletin.

The Y.M.C.A.'s Work With Prisoners of War

First-hand information of Canadian men in German prison camps has been brought to Canada by Hugo Cedergren, of Sweden, Associate Director of the Y.M.C.A. War Prisoners' Aid. He is in this country to visit Canadian camps and talk to the relatives of men imprisoned in Germany.

"I can honestly say that the morale of Canadian prisoners is very good," he said in an interview. "They look rather healthy, and have no real need that their people here could satisfy."

Providing the men with study material had proven one of the best morale builders. Close to 90 per cent. of the men were studying everything from potato raising to philosophy with material the Y.M.C.A. had helped supply.

Many were interested in crafts. Wood for toymaking had been also supplied by the Y.M.C.A. The toys were sold in near-by German cities and the money turned over to the men who made them.

"The religious side of camp life concerns us greatly," said the Swedish delegate. "At Stalag Luft III our Y.M.C.A. representative together with a Baptist minister from New Zealand, a Jesuit padre and an evangelical minister, arrange six services each Sunday and two daily. Such things as altar cloths and communion vessels are placed in the chapels by the Y.M.C.A. The camp heads tell me the chapels are always filled."

The sports life of the men was another concern of the Y.M.C.A. Some camps had three sports fields—in constant use. All manner of sports equipment was placed at their disposal. Each man was urged to get into some kind of sport if at all possible.

Nine Y.M.C.A. men visit the German camps and visits are spaced at about five week intervals, said Mr. Cedergren. "There should be many more when one considers that thousands of men are interned, but like all belligerent nations, Germany keeps the number of visiting foreigners at a minimum."

"On the whole the mail gets through well," he said. "Red Cross parcels are well received and a real blessing. With camp fare supplemented by these parcels, the men get enough to eat and the right kind of food."

One of his chief aims when he visited a camp was to try to get the men's mind on the future, Mr. Cedergren said. "Some of them feel that while they are interned they are useless, and I always say in reply that after the war their home communities will need them and everything they do now to prepare themselves for the post-war period will be helpful later."

Seldom does Mr. Cedergren visit a German camp without a long list of Canadian men whom he has been asked, by parents and friends, to look up. With permission of German authorities, he contacts these men and news of them is cabled to Canada through Y.M.C.A. headquarters in Geneva.

Of the men's health, he said "only a very small percentage" were ill. Not as many died in internment camps this war as did in the last.

"In my opinion the thousands of Canadians now in prison camps will be in a less favourable position to fit into the post-war program than will the men who have been actively engaged. They will need special care. I feel that Governments should be most careful in planning their post-war program."

Before coming to Canada Mr. Cedergren had visited camps in the United States. Of the three Canadian camps he had seen before coming to Toronto he said, "I was very favourably impressed."

Don Macdonald Back Home

"Canadian troops overseas have 'the utmost confidence' that the war will be over three months after they land on Europe's west coast and they'll be home next Christmas," Don Macdonald, senior War Services Supervisor with the Canadian Bomber group of the R.C.A.F., overseas, said recently in Toronto. Back on sick leave, after two years overseas, he was in Toronto on his way home to Winnipeg.

"There is a tremendous gathering of United Nations' strength in Great Britain," he said. "Reinforcements and new equipment pour into the country. Highways are jammed with moving troops and equipment and the cities are filled with troops. The optimism of the British and Canadian overseas is high. It's different from two years ago."

"Canadian soldiers and airmen overseas want, most of all, more and still more letters from home," Macdonald said. "Snapshots of the baby, of any relatives, of the house, are pored over with excitement. Parcels from home are always welcome. Canadian cigarettes are eagerly looked for. Next in importance is the home-town newspaper."

Work of the Y.M.C.A. was "appreciated and admired by all," the supervisor said. "The co-operation and support given by the station commands to the voluntary services is proof of their value. Each of the organizations has been assigned to special areas, and each is using its own special talents to do a good job for the boys."

Uppermost in the minds of Canadian airmen overseas is the question: "What is Canada going to be like after the war?" Macdonald said. Aircrew are hoping that the aviation industry will boom. Ground crew are planning to go back to their old work, and look for something new. They are proud of Canada. They boast of its achievements as they never did at home. Every bit of equipment that comes from Canada they proudly show to their English pals and boast how good it is.

What about religion? "I never met an atheist in the lot," he said. "They're a grand lot of boys. I'm proud of Canadians."

Heads U. of B.C.

DR. N. A. M. McKENZIE

Dr. McKenzie is the President of the University of New Brunswick and a Vice-President of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A.'s of Canada. His appointment to the Presidency of the University of British Columbia has just been announced.

Centennial World Service Area Conferences

The organization of the Y.M.C.A. in 1844 was an International event of major significance. It spread to Canada and the United States in 1851 and in 1890 the International Committee sent out its first two Secretaries to India and Japan. Since that date the World Service work of the "Y" has extended to thirty-two countries. In spite of the war it is still functioning in fifteen of these countries, and besides its regular work is doing extensive Emergency World Service with troops in China, India, Egypt, Palestine and with thousands of Poles in exile.

To keep abreast of the times, the "Y" is promoting an extensive Post-War Policy Study comprising the Far East, the Middle East, Europe, South America and North America. Frank V. Slack and Paul Anderson, of the International Committee, were in Toronto recently conducting a conference for this purpose.

To face up to the post-war problems, to deepen interest in World Service work in Canada and to organize it on an Area basis, Mr. John Frosst, Chairman of the Canadian World Service Committee, and J. Hartley Fowler, new World Service Secretary for Canada, are holding six Area Conferences during April and May in the following cities: Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Vancouver, Saint John and Halifax. Previous conferences have already been held in Montreal and Toronto. Mr. Frosst is flying at his own expense to these conferences so as not to be away too long from his business in Montreal. The whole movement is indebted to him for his leadership. He believes that now is the time to prepare youth for its new world responsibilities and that Y.M.C.A. World Service work affords one of the finest avenues for doing so.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

New Men

Reid, A. Weir, Assistant Program, Toronto Central. January 24, 1944.

Transfers

Langille, Howard, Boys, Hamilton to Comm.-Prog., Toronto, High Park. January 24, 1944.

Resignations

Dingman, Frank S., Exec. Toronto Northwestern to Military, January 17, 1944.

Young, Fred M., Gen. Sec., Halifax, to C.C.F. Sec., N.S. February 1, 1944.

Canadian Y.M.C.A. Study

"The success or failure of the Canadian Y.M.C.A. Study will depend to a considerable extent on the adequacy of the self-studies conducted in local Associations." This statement, which appears in the minutes of a meeting of a group of Canadian secretaries with Roy Sorenson, American expert in the survey field, emphasizes the importance of self studies on the part of local Associations.

These self-studies will provide the National Commitee with essential data, but they will also provide each local Association with directions for their own work in a way in which no national recommendations could provide. Self-study guides are now prepared and need only the approval of the National Committee before they can be made available. The members of this Committee are now being selected and will meet in the near future.

The services of Murray G. Ross as Director of this Study have been requested, and arrangements have been made for Mr. Ross to take over this project as soon as assistance can be provided to relieve him of some of his present responsibilities. An announcement on this matter is expected shortly.

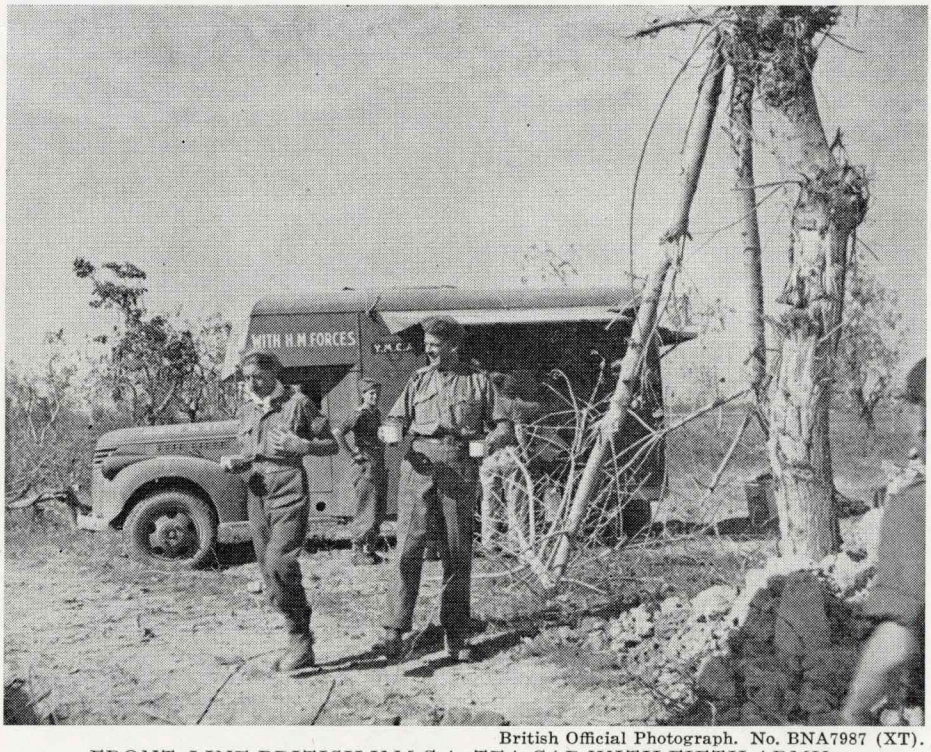
In the meantime, all local Associations are urged to set up a local study committee and to include in the staff schedule some time between now and June to gather data for the local study. When the National Study Committee meets, plans will be made to give local Associations all possible help.

Pamphlet on "Religious Needs"

"The Y.M.C.A. and the Religious Needs of Youth," a publication of the National Young Men's Committee has just come off the press and is now ready for distribution in Canada.

Every Association will want to have a good supply of these pamphlets for committee and staff members. The pamphlet will sell for ten cents per copy and may be ordered from the National Young Men's Committee, National Council Y.M.C.A., 21 Dundas Square, Toronto.

This pamphlet attempts to catch up the thinking of modern youth about religion. The findings are both discouraging and challenging. They suggest a very real need on the part of young people for help which, to date, they have not received from the church or any other agency. The pamphlet outlines what the Y.M.C.A. might do in the situation.



British Official Photograph. No. BNA7987 (XT).

FRONT LINE BRITISH Y.M.C.A. TEA CAR WITH FIFTH ARMY

This particular tea car started to follow our fighting men when they broke through El Alamein, and although its career nearly came to a sudden end at Meddanine, under enemy shell fire, it is still going strong.

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